

From: Schaub, Mike
To: ["Oster, David"](#)
Cc: [Nelson, Russell](#); [Crocker, Philip](#)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Wilson/Bradley Slough turbidity criterion change
Date: Monday, October 1, 2018 10:11:00 AM

Hi Dave,

Just thought I'd follow up and see if you think you'll be able to provide tech assistance on the eLMRAP BE as discussed in a recent email message? Not wanting to rush you at all here, but thought it worth checking to see if this is still possible, or if your management has expressed any reservations with our request.

Thanks so much!

Mike Schaub
Water Quality Standards Program
Water Division
US EPA Region 6-Dallas
214-665-7314

From: Oster, David [mailto:david_oster@fws.gov]
Sent: Monday, September 17, 2018 1:50 PM
To: Schaub, Mike <Schaub.Mike@epa.gov>
Cc: Nelson, Russell <nelson.russell@epa.gov>; Crocker, Philip <crocker.philip@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Wilson/Bradley Slough turbidity criterion change

Hi Mike,

Thanks for sending, I just wanted to confirm that I received your request. My apologies for not responding sooner but it is definitely on my agenda!

Sincerely,
Dave

On Mon, Sep 10, 2018 at 6:41 PM, Schaub, Mike <Schaub.Mike@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Dave,

In follow-up to my previous email regarding the eLMRAP BE, we would also like to request technical assistance in the review of LDEQ's recent report which proposes to change the turbidity criterion in Wilson Slough (subsegment 090205) and Bradley Slough (subsegment 090206) from the existing 25NTU to 50NTU. Both of these subsegments are designated as Scenic Rivers and have been assigned an Outstanding Natural Resource Water (ONRW) designated use in the state's water quality standards. By virtue of this designation, they were originally assigned a criterion of 25NTU, which automatically applies to any ONRW water. LDEQ now proposes to change the criterion to 50NTU, which they believe better represents natural background in these

subsegments, and matches the applicable criterion elsewhere in the main stem/distributaries of the Pearl River. Our search of IPaC indicates that the listed species within these subsegments include the manatee, red cockaded woodpecker, gopher tortoise, ringed map turtle, and the Atlantic (Gulf subsp) sturgeon. My understanding from our conversation is that the heelsplitter mussel may also be a species of concern in the Pearl River based on recent finds. We would very much like to get your technical assistance in advising us as to the availability and location of resources for evaluating the potential impacts of this criterion change on the above species, with a focus on the impacts of turbidity/suspended sediment in particular.

Such information will greatly assist EPA in evaluating ESA concerns associated with this criterion change when taking discretionary action on the state of Louisiana's water quality standards revisions, which will include this proposed action, expected later this fall. I have attached LDEQ's report to this email. We would very much appreciate discussing this matter alongside or following any discussions regarding the eLMRAP BE.

Thanks so much for your interest in this matter and we look forward to discussing this with you further in the coming weeks!

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